

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03302 251626Z
ACTION SNM-02

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3302

BOGOTA FOR NARCOOR

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, PE
SUBJ: COCAINE PRODUCTION

REF: BOGOTA 3609

1. ESTIMATES OF TOTAL COCA LEAF PRODUCTION IN PERU VARY WIDELY AS NOTED IN REFTTEL. BASIC STATISTICAL DATA ON HECTARES UNDER CULTIVATION ARE SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE. THE EMPRESA DE LA COCA'S EARLY FIGURE OF 10,000 METRIC TONS (MT) COCA PRODUCTION PER YEAR IS HIGHLY SUSPECT. EXPERTS AT THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY OF LA MOLINA PLACE PRODUCTION AT 22,000 MT, WHILE THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY GUESS IN 27,000 MT. DEA LIMA, IN ITS ESTIMATES AND PLANNING, USES THE FIGURE OF 25,000 MT ARRIVED AT BY THE NEWLY-REORGANIZED EMPRESA DE LA COCA. DEA CONSIDERS THIS TO BE A CONSERVATIVE FIGURE.

2. OF THIS TOTAL PRODUCTION, DEA ESTIMATES THAT AT THE MOST SOME 7,300 MT ARE CONSUMED (CHEWED) BY PERU'S INDIGENOUS POPULATION, AND THAT 600 MT ARE EXPORTED FOR MEDICINAL AND FLAVORING PURPOSES, LEAVING THE ILLEGAL PRODUCTION FIGURE AT APPROXIMATELY 17,000 MT.

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PAGE 02 LIMA 03302 251626Z

3. DEA/LIMA'S ESTIMATES FOR COCA/PASTE/HCL PROPORTIONS DIFFER FROM THOSE IN REFTTEL. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PRODUCTION LOSSES, 200 K OF LEAVES ARE THOUGHT TO BE NECESSARY TO PRODUCE ONE KILO OF COCA PASTE, GIVING PERU THE POTENTIAL OF PRODUCING 85 MT OF PASTE A YEAR FROM THE 17,000 MT "ILLEGAL" PRODUCTION. A KILOGRAM OF PURE HCL CAN BE REFINED FROM TWO AND ONE-HALF

K OF CRUDE PASTE, LEAVING AN ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 34 MT OF HCL
FROM THE 17,000 MT OF LEAVES.

4. DEA NOTES THAT THE ABOVE PRODUCTION AND REDUCTION FIGURES
ARE CONSIDERED TO BE CONSERVATIVE, AND ALSO CITES FIGURES
NORMALLY USED BY TRAFFICKERS: 150 K OF LEAVES EQUALS ONE KILO
OF PASTE EQUALS ONE-HALF KILO HCL.

5. FOR BOGOTA'S INFORMATION WE ARE FORWARDING BY CLASSIFIED
POUCH A COPY OF DEA/LIMA'S USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE REPORT OF
MARCH 15, 1977 OF COCA GROWING IN PERU.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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